

# JOINT PRESS RELEASE

DATE: September 15, 2015

FROM: Jefferson City Parks and Recreation and Lincoln University

SUBJECT: Wellness Center Cooperative Partnership

History was made in Jefferson City on September 9 and 10, 2015 with the approval and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Lincoln University and the City of Jefferson Parks and Recreation. Approval of the document by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Lincoln University Board of Curators cements a year long process aimed at improving both university and community services and facilities. The level of enthusiasm for the project is evident from the number of questions which both the University and Parks and Recreation have received. The following list of frequently asked questions is intended to inform the public of the details of the project, share and broaden the enthusiasm, and invite additional input.

## **FAQ's**

### **1. What is the location of the proposed building?**

The facility will be constructed on the east side of Lafayette between Jefferson City High School and Lincoln University's Dwight T. Reed Stadium and will occupy a portion on the current Lincoln softball field which will be relocated.

### **2. What is the general description of the building?**

The building is approximately 79,000 square feet on three levels. The main level consisting of approximately 46,800 square feet will house four full size basketball courts, offices, lobby, restrooms, front desk, concession area, storage, and meeting rooms. The upper level of the building is approximately 23,150 square feet and will contain a fitness center, offices, meeting/classrooms, restrooms and the elevated walking track. A basement level of approximately 9,800 square feet will house Lincoln University Athletic Department offices, locker rooms, and restrooms. The lower level will be finished at the expense of Lincoln University in addition to their contribution toward the Wellness Center facility.

**3. I heard that the building size has been reduced. Does that mean less court space?**

No. The building was originally anticipated at being approximately 80,000 square feet but as the partners met to discuss programs and services desired within the building, the design concept increased to approximately 91,000 square feet. Subsequent cost estimates for the project revealed that identified funding was inadequate to construct a larger facility and design continued focusing on the original concept size. The building is designed for future expansion as utilization and community needs grow.

**4. How many game courts will be housed in the gymnasium of the facility?**

Architects are pursuing a design which includes four high school size basketball courts arranged side by side. The gymnasium space will also have a dual function by being able to have six full size volleyball courts and six junior high basketball courts playing in the opposite direction of full-size courts. This enables a 30% increase in programmable space while accommodating the needs for various sports at different levels of skill and competition.

**5. Who will be able to utilize the Wellness/Fitness Center portion of the facility?**

The upper level of the building contains approximately 4,500 square feet for a fitness center combining cardio as well as weight activities. This portion of the facility is designed for the wellness of Lincoln University students, faculty, and staff with an additional 500 memberships being offered for sale to the public. A proposed daily drop in fee would also provide access to the fitness center, gymnasium, and elevated walking track by non-members and visitors.

**6. What programs will be conducted in the new facility?**

One of the purposes for the building is to enable the growth of Park and Recreation programs which are now conducted primarily in local school and church gymnasiums. Some youth and adult programs which have inadequate time and space in those facilities will be relocated to the new facility. In addition, there will be greatly expanded opportunities for new programs focusing on youth and adult sports as well as Wellness/Fitness programs for which there are no current facilities available.

**7. Will the facility be able to accommodate youth sports tournaments?**

The dual four courts/six court design will enable both basketball and volleyball tournaments at various skill levels to utilize the facility along with other types of sporting events. Parks and Recreation in cooperation with Lincoln University and the Convention and Visitors Bureau will also market the facility for rental to sports organizations and entrepreneurs who operate such events. Push back bleacher seating will accommodate approximately 1,200 spectators.

**8. In addition to participating in organized programs, will Lincoln University students and the public have access to the facility for drop in play?**

Yes. It is an operational goal to have at least one of the six courts open for drop in use the majority of the time. Drop-in/open gym time will become a regular program offering within the facility and available times may vary depending upon overall use needs within the building. A

schedule of available drop in times will be posted at the facility and online for the convenience of users. In addition, Lincoln intramural programs will be expanded and incorporated into Parks and Recreation programs.

**9. What will it cost for persons to use the facility?**

Costs for Lincoln University students will be covered by a student activity fee collected as a part of their academic registration process. Fitness facility memberships, gymnasium or meeting room rental, program registrations, and daily drop in fees will apply to others using the facility. Fee levels are still under discussion by the University and Parks and Recreation Commission.

**10. Will anyone be able to suggest uses for the facility?**

Yes. The number of game courts and hours within the operating schedule will offer many new opportunities for programs and activities both for Lincoln University students and the public. In addition to making suggestions directly to either the University or Parks and Recreation, an advisory committee created under the Memorandum of Understanding will be responsible for gathering input and making recommendations for new programs once the facility is open.

**11. What is the anticipated opening date for the facility?**

Architects anticipate that bids will be received during the first of November 2015 with construction beginning prior to the end of the year. The construction process is anticipated to take nearly one year with the goal of opening the facility to public use in late 2016.

**12. How will the facility be staffed?**

Both Parks and Recreation and Lincoln University staff will be housed within the building. Parks and Recreation offices are anticipated to be relocated to the main floor of the building and will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating most of the activities in that area. Lincoln University staff will be primarily responsible for staffing of the Fitness Center and in cooperation with Parks and Recreation staff work to enhance student programming opportunities. Lincoln University Athletic Department staff housed in the lower level of the building will not be included in the shared operating costs of the facility.

**13. What are the hours of operation for the facility?**

Initially hours of operation will be 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday thru Thursday; 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday; and Noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday. These hours will be subject to adjustment to maximize cost efficiencies based on participant interests and levels of use.

**14. Will the facility be open every day?**

The facility will be open daily except for a very limited holiday/closure schedule. All or parts of the facility may be temporarily closed for occasional Lincoln University and/or community events which require use of the entire facility. The MOU provides that those events will be published six months in advance to allow users to adjust their schedules accordingly.

**15. Why is the facility named the “Wellness Center”?**

The facility represents the interests of both Lincoln University and Parks and Recreation. Some of Lincoln’s funding sources include grants for the physical wellness/fitness component of the facility including the fitness center and upper level classroom space. Jefferson City Parks and Recreation funding sources are related to recreation. The facility will be dully represented as the University Wellness and Parks Multipurpose Recreation Center. Both parties are seeking naming rights contributions to the facility as well as for courts and other amenities related to the building.

**16. Where can I obtain additional information about the project?**

You may call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 573-634-6482 or send an email to [jcparks@jeffcitymo.org](mailto:jcparks@jeffcitymo.org)